

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GE
SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA COVERAGE OF EAST BERLIN
SHOOTING INCIDENT

REF: BERLIN 4114

1. ALL GDR MEDIA HAVE GIVEN BRIEF, NON-PROMINENT
COVERAGE TO SHOOTING INCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL. THE
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REPORTS STATE THAT AT ABOUT 1300 ON MONDAY (JUNE 19)
AT THE INTERSECTION OF FRIEDRICHSTRASSE AND UNTER
DEN LINDEN A VEHICLE OF THE TYPE B 1000 (AN EAST GERMAN
MANUFACTURE MINIBUS) "COLLIDED WITH A PERSONAL
VEHICLE OF THE PERMAMENT REPRESENTATION OF THE FRG
IN THE GDR, WHEREBY THE EMPLOYEE W. JUNG OF THE FRG
REPRESENTATION WAS INJURED." REPORTS GO ON TO SAY

THAT "THE DRIVER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCIDENT, A DESERTING MENTALLY DERANGED SOLDIER OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY" ATTEMPTED TO BRING THE INVESTIGATING POLICE UNDER FIRE "AND THEREBY WOUNDED THREE PASSERSBY." THE SOVIET SOLDIER IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN "ARRESTED BY THE VOLKSPOLIZEI" AND THE WOUNDED GIVEN IMMEDIATE TREATMENT. THE REPORT CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION.

2. GDR REPORTS DO NOT CLARIFY SEVERAL POINTS: THAT JUNG RECEIVED A BULLET WOUND IN THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE; THAT THERE IN FACT WAS AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE RATHER THAN JUST SHOOTING BY THE SOVIET SOLDIER; HOW BADLY PASSERSBY WERE WOUNDED AND BY WHOM; WHETHER THE SOLDIER WAS KILLED; WHETHER HE WAS ALONE; AND WHAT THE SOLDIER WAS DOING IN DOWNTOWN EAST BERLIN WITH A VEHICLE AND FIREARM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

3. WEST GERMAN PRESS REPORTS IN GENERAL ASSUME THAT THE SOLDIER WAS ATTEMPTING TO REACH CHECKPOINT CHARLIE WITH THE IDEA OF FLEEING TO THE WEST. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM OR DISPROVE SUCH SPECULATION. HOWEVER, FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH DIPLOMATIC WITNESSES WHO WERE ON THE SCENE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SHOOTING APPEAR TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFIRM THAT THERE WERE IN FACT TWO SOVIET SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, THAT THE FIRST OF THEM WAS KILLED OUTRIGHT IN THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE AND THAT THE SECOND WAS PROBABLY WOUNDED AND TAKEN FROM THE SCENE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BY THE VOLKSPOLIZEI.

4. THIS RATHER BIZARRE HAPPENING IS UNDERSTANDABLY THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE POPULAR INTEREST AND SPECULATION AMONG EAST BERLINERS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD JUDGE THAT LITTLE IF ANY MORE SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION WILL EMERGE FROM THE GDR ON THIS SUBJECT, THAT MOST EAST GERMANS WILL ASSUME THAT THE SOVIET SOLDIER WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE TO THE WEST, AND THAT THE HIGH LEVEL OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN THIS INCIDENT WILL FADE RAPIDLY. BOLEN

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